

Motion Sheet  
**October 24, 2023**

- 1. Consent Agenda:** I move to adopt the Consent Agenda. (Mayor Kabir will read the agenda items)

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 23-G-160 | I move to approve the letter to the M-NCPPC requesting they reassess Lakeland for an historic designation.   |
| 23-O-08  | Ratification of Amended Ordinance 23-O-08, Amending Chapter 175, Taxation, to authorize the Mayor and Council to approve a tax credit for elderly individuals – Stephanie P. Anderson, City Attorney |
| 23-G-161 | I move to support the address changes at and around Holy Redeemer Church, as recommended by the County Address Coordinator and supported by Engineering and Planning Staff.                          |

**ACTION ITEMS**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 23-G-162 | I move to approve the recommendation of the Advisory Planning Commission to grant the request for an exemption from the Prohibited Vehicles ordinance for a motorcycle trailer to park on the street at 9727 Wichita Avenue for longer than 30 days, not to exceed a period of 2 years. |
| 23-R-14  | I move to support an increase to the New Neighbors grant allowance from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for purchasing a residence and \$10,000 to \$15,000 for a previous rental for full-time law enforcement officers.   |



**CITY OF COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND  
ACTION ITEM COVER REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM: 23-O-08**

**Prepared By:** Stephanie P. Anderson,  
City Attorney

**Meeting Date:** 10/24/2023

**Presented By:** Stephanie P. Anderson  
City Attorney

**Proposed Consent:** Yes

**Originating Department:** Finance

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Amended Ordinance 23-O-08, Amending Chapter 175,  
Taxation, Elderly Property Tax Credit.

**Strategic Plan Objective:** OKR 8 – Foster and sustain an affordable and stable City for individuals and  
families to live, work, play and retire here.

**Background/Justification**

Mayor and Council discussed most recently Ordinance 23-O-08, implementing an Elderly Property Tax credit (Elderly Credit) for College Park residents, as an Action item at the October 17, 2023, Council meeting. Following discussion by the Mayor and Council, amendments to Ordinance 23-O-08 were adopted by Council.

Previous history included introduction at the September 26 2023, meeting of Ordinance 23-O-08, providing for an Elderly Credit. A Public Hearing was held on October 10, 2023. At that meeting, Council indicated no action would be taken on the Ordinance before providing the public an additional opportunity to comment on the Ordinance before considering any action at the October 17, 2023 meeting.

In summary, this Ordinance establishes an Elderly Credit of \$150 annually paid for 5 years. All property taxes must be paid before receiving the credit. To be eligible the following must be met:

- At least one homeowner must be age 65 and over.
- The same homeowner has resided at the property for which the credit is sought for at least the previous ten (10) fiscal years.
- The maximum assessed value of the property does not exceed \$500,000. (There are provisions for annual inflation).
- The Mayor and Council of the City of College Park shall reassess every year the Elderly Tax Credit Program.

For the fiscal year 2024 Elderly Credit, the City will accept applications (will be similar to PGC application attached) through December 31, 2023. Property owners who filed an application with Prince George's County (PGC), for the county's Elderly Credit, do not need to file an application with the City. After this initial year, applications will be due October 1. Applicants are encouraged to apply for the PGC Elderly Credit, through their online portal – a separate City application will not be required.

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**Fiscal Impact:**

The FY2024 budget includes \$150,000 for the implementation of a tax credit for the elderly.

**Equity & Inclusion Impact**

A property tax credit for elderly residents would assist eligible residents to better afford to live in the City.

**Council Options:**

Adoption of Amended Ordinance 23-O-08.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Adoption of Amended Ordinance 23-O-08.

**Recommended Motion:** I move to adopt Amended Ordinance 23-O-08, Amending Chapter 175, "Taxation", By Enacting Article V, "Property Tax Credit For Elderly Individuals", §175-14 "Establishment Of Tax Credit", §175-15, "Eligibility", §175-16, "Amount And Duration Of Credit", §175-17, "Application For The Tax Credit, And §175-18, "Effective Date Of The Tax Credit" To Authorize The Mayor And Council To Approve A Tax Credit For Elderly Individuals And To Provide The Extent, Duration, And Eligibility Requirements For The Credit As Authorized By §9-258 Of The Taxation-Property Article, Annotated Code Of Maryland.

**Attachments:**

1. Amended Ordinance 23-O-08
2. PGC Application for Elderly Tax Credit

**AMENDED ORDINANCE**  
**OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE PARK,**  
**AMENDING CHAPTER 175 "TAXATION", BY ENACTING ARTICLE V,**  
**"PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS", §175-14**  
**"ESTABLISHMENT OF TAX CREDIT", §175-15, "ELIGIBILITY", §175-16,**  
**"AMOUNT AND DURATION OF CREDIT", §175-17, "APPLICATION FOR THE TAX**  
**CREDIT, AND §175-18, "EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE TAX CREDIT" TO AUTHORIZE**  
**THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO APPROVE A TAX CREDIT FOR ELDERLY**  
**INDIVIDUALS AND TO PROVIDE THE EXTENT, DURATION, AND ELGIBILITY**  
**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CREDIT AS AUTHORIZED BY §9-258 OF THE**  
**TAXATION-PROPERTY ARTICLE, ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND**

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland, pursuant to §9-258 of the Tax-Property Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, has authorized the establishment of a property tax credit under this section against a county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on the dwelling of an eligible individual; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council determined that it is in the public interest to provide for the establishment of a City tax credit as authorized in §9-258 based on criteria tailored to the needs of elderly City residents.

**Section 1.** NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland that Chapter 175 "Taxation", Article V "Property Tax Credit for Elderly Individuals" be and it is hereby established.

**Section 2.** BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park that Chapter 175, "Taxation", Article V, "Property Tax Credit for Elderly Individuals", §175-14, "Establishment of Tax Credit" be and it is hereby enacted to read as follows:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| CAPS            | : Indicate matter added to existing law.   |
| [Brackets]      | : Indicate matter deleted from law.  |
| Asterisks * * * | : Indicate matter remaining unchanged in existing law but not set forth in Ordinance |
| CAPS            | : Indicate matter added in amendment   |
| [Brackets]      | : Indicate matter deleted in amendment   |

§175-14 ESTABLISHMENT OF TAX CREDIT.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF §9-258 OF THE TAX-PROPERTY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AGAINST THE CITY REAL PROPERTY TAX MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE DWELLING OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION "DWELLING" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-105 OF THE TAX-PROPERTY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

**Section 3.**     **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park that Chapter 175, "Taxation", Article V, "Property Tax Credit for Elderly Individuals", §175-15, "Eligibility" be and it is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§175-15 ELIGIBILITY.

AN INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS:

A. AT LEAST 65 YEARS OLD;

B. HAS LIVED IN THE SAME DWELLING FOR AT LEAST THE PRECEDING TEN (10) YEARS; AND

C. THE DWELLING FOR WHICH A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT IS SOUGHT HAS A MAXIMUM ASSESSED VALUE OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) AT THE TIME THE INDIVIDUAL FIRST APPLIED FOR THE CREDIT. THE MAXIMUM VALUE SHALL INCREASE ANNUALLY ON JULY 1 BY THE LESSER OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) FOR THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR OR THREE PERCENT (3%).

**Section 4.** BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park that Chapter 175, "Taxation", Article V, "Property Tax Credit for Elderly Individuals", §175-16, "Amount and duration of tax credit" be and it is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§175-16 AMOUNT AND DURATION OF CREDIT.

THE TAX CREDIT ALLOWED IS [~~TWO~~] ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$~~2~~150.00) OF THE CITY REAL PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON THE DWELLING. THE CREDIT SHALL BE GRANTED EACH YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO FIVE (5) YEARS IF THE INDIVIDUAL REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR THE CREDIT.

**Section 5.** BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park that Chapter 175, "Taxation", Article V, "Property Tax Credit for Elderly Individuals", §175-17, "Application for tax credit" be and it is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§175-17 APPLICATION FOR THE TAX CREDIT.

AN APPLICATION FOR THE TAX CREDIT SHALL BE MADE UNDER OATH ON AN APPLICATION PROVIDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2023, FOR THE 2024 TAX YEAR CREDIT AND OCTOBER 1 OF THE FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE CREDIT IS BEING SOUGHT THEREAFTER. THE APPLICATION SHALL PROVIDE A LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY AND SUCH OTHER INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTATION AS THE DIRECTOR MAY REQUIRE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE APPLICANT CAN QUALIFY FOR THE TAX CREDIT. AN APPLICATION APPROVED BY PRINCE GEORGE'S

COUNTY FOR ITS ELDERLY PERSON TAX CREDIT WILL AUTOMATICALLY TO BE APPROVED FOR THE CITY TAX CREDIT WITHOUT FURTHER APPLICATION.

**Section 6.** BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park that Chapter 175, "Taxation", Article V, "Property Tax Credit for Elderly Individuals", §175-18, "Effective date of credit" be and it is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§175-18 EFFECTIVE DATE AND REVIEW OF CREDIT.

THE CREDIT IS APPLICABLE FOR FISCAL YEARS JULY 1, 2024, AND THEREAFTER. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL SHALL REASSESS EVERY YEAR THE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN THIS ARTICLE.

**Section 7.** BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, upon formal introduction of this proposed Ordinance, which shall be by way of a motion duly seconded and without any further vote, the City Clerk shall distribute a copy to each Council member and shall maintain a reasonable number of copies in the office of the City Clerk and shall post at City Hall, to the official City website, to the City-maintained e-mail LISTSERV, and on the City cable channel, and if time permits, in any City newsletter, the proposed ordinance or a fair summary thereof together with a notice setting out the time and place for a public hearing thereon and for its consideration by the Council. The public hearing, hereby set for 7:30 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023, shall follow the publication by at least seven (7) days, may be held separately or in connection with a regular or special Council meeting and may be adjourned from time to time. All persons interested shall have an opportunity to be heard. After the hearing, the Council may adopt the proposed ordinance with or without amendments or reject it.

**Section 8. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park that this Ordinance shall become effective on November 14, 2023 provided that, as soon as practicable after adoption, the City Clerk shall post a fair summary of the Ordinance and notice of its adoption at City Hall, to the official City website, to the City-maintained e-mail LISTSERV, on the City cable channel, and in any City newsletter.

If any section, subsection, provision, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be illegal or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall be severable, and shall not affect or impair any remaining section, subsection, provision, sentence, clause, phrase or word included within this Ordinance, it being the intent of the City that the remainder of the Ordinance shall be and shall remain in full force and effect, valid and enforceable.

**INTRODUCED** by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland at a regular meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

**ADOPTED** by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, Maryland at a regular meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

**EFFECTIVE** the 14<sup>th</sup> day November, 2023.

**ATTEST:**

**CITY OF COLLEGE PARK**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janeen S. Miller, MMC, CERA, City Clerk      Fazlul Kabir, Mayor



**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie P. Anderson, City Attorney

**PUBLIC COMMENT  
OCTOBER 24, 2023**

**From:** Mike Linynsky <[mklinynsky@iaff1619.org](mailto:mklinynsky@iaff1619.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 11:32 AM  
**To:** cpmc <[cpmc@collegeparkmd.gov](mailto:cpmc@collegeparkmd.gov)>  
**Subject:** New Neighbors Grant Allowance for Qualified Law Enforcement Personnel

Good afternoon,

My name is Michael Linynsky, 1st VP of Local 1619 (Prince George's County Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association). We recently became aware of modifications to your New Neighbor's Grant Allowance Program. I am writing to you to kindly consider adding Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians that work within Prince George's County to be included in these modifications. One of the hardest things for a younger Firefighter/Medic to accomplish is the goal of homeownership. Prince George's County has one of the lowest starting salaries for Firefighter/Medics in the region and it is driving members to move farther and farther away in order to put a roof over their families heads. Having a neighbor or person in the community who is trained in life saving skills (CPR, AED), fire protection, and fire prevention can only bolster a neighborhood.

We consider College Park, MD a great place to live, work, and raise a family. It would be an honor and a privilege to be considered to the amendments and become your new neighbors. We appreciate any discussion on this. Please contact me anytime if you have any questions.

Respectfully,  
Mike Linynsky  
1st VP Local 1619  
[mklinynsky@iaff1619.org](mailto:mklinynsky@iaff1619.org)



# CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

7401 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 201 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGEPARKMD.GOV

October 24, 2023

### MAYOR

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### DISTRICT 4

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**Denise Mitchell,**  
Mayor Pro Tem  
dmitchell@collegeparkmd.gov  
301.852.8126

The Maryland-National Capital Park And Planning Commission  
6611 Kenilworth Avenue  
Riverdale, MD 20737

To Whom it May Concern,

We write today asking your support for righting the harm done to residents of the Lakeland community by completing a new assessment for historic designation. Our request is that this new work be done in cooperation with Lakelanders by a culturally appropriate working group to focus on the period of urban renewal as a broad pattern of history that makes properties, individually and collectively, in Lakeland historically significant.

In June of 2020, the City of College Park adopted Resolution 20-R-16 Renouncing Systemic Racism and Declaring Support of Black Lives. At that time we took the step to “acknowledge and apologize for our city's past history of oppression, particularly with regards to the Lakeland community, and actively seek opportunities for accountability and truth-telling about past injustice, and aggressively seek opportunities for restorative justice...” Answering this commitment has led to the appointment last year of a Restorative Justice Commission.

Part of the commission's early work has been a review of preservation strategies for the Lakeland community. That quickly led to the discovery of an assisting Multiple Property Documentation Form completed in 2008 by EHT Traceries. In reviewing the document, the commission noted a number of concerns regarding the process, content, and conclusion of this product. In view of this finding, we join The Restorative Justice Commission in asking you to reconsider EHT Traceries 2008 recommendation that Lakeland not be eligible under the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for African American Historic Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland, County historic district or as a National Register Historic District. EHT Traceries reasoned that Lakeland was not established as an African American settlement, and the few remaining buildings from the early twentieth century are not adequate to convey Lakeland's historic significance as either a resort community or an African American community. We ask for reconsideration of this assessment given current trends in historic preservation to advocate for preservation policies to be more flexible to account for change over time and loss of form and material integrity, while elevating cultural and historical significance instead of exclusively focusing on architectural integrity. A recommendation for this type of action was encouraged in National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, “Not Another Integrity Debate: Local Preservation Efforts

and Strategies in Action”, Webinar May 23, 2023, moderator Adrian Scott Fine, Senior Director of Advocacy for the Los Angeles Conservancy, via BigMarker video meeting.

The Restorative Justice Commission has been tasked with identifying past harms imposed on the Lakeland Community by Urban Renewal, and the City of College Park, in order to seek restoration where possible. The denial of historic designation is one instance where the Commission seeks both recognition and restoration for Lakeland. Places that speak to the experiences of the Black community have been routinely and disproportionately undervalued, underinvested, and demolished. Urban Renewal of Lakeland destroyed two thirds of the physical landscape and displaced hundreds of community members, engendering decades of harm, for which the Restorative Justice Commission now seeks redress.

Recent advances in inclusive preservation practices supported by The National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, have shown that preservation can be a force for advancing equitable development and social justice in African American neighborhoods and other communities of color. Too often the places where significant African American history happened go unrecognized for the significant role they play in the fabric of American society. We believe that Lakeland is one such example. Lakeland High School, for example, served as a cultural and social center for African American families throughout northern Prince George’s County. Lakeland is centrally located within a group of small, interconnected, historically African American communities along U.S. Route 1, from Laurel to the District of Columbia, in which families banded together to meet the needs of their residents in the face of segregation and disinvestment.

EHT Traceries, cites “Despite the community’s historic significance as a Victorian era Resort community and as an early 20th century African American neighborhood the community is not recommended because the few remaining buildings from the earlier 20th century are not adequate to convey Lakeland’s historic significance as a resort community nor an African American community.” The denial of designations for Black historic places has gone hand in hand with the absence of African Americans from the institutions that decide what history is preserved. According to the National Trust For Historic Preservation, empowering African American communities in the protection and interpretation of their heritage is one important way the preservation movement can help promote a more equitable future.

Urban renewal and the subsequent cultural displacement contributed to the erosion of longstanding cultural norms and practices, closure of long-operating businesses (the local store) and institutions (clubs and sports teams), and demolition of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the neighborhood, resulting in the loss of important historic places, neighborhood cohesion and cultural identity felt by longtime neighborhood residents. The depth of this loss continues to affect heritage preservation in Lakeland today, as current residents in the City of College Park and the surrounding area often have no knowledge of Lakeland and its unique history and importance to the African American communities of Prince George’s County.

This fact led EHT Traceries to conclude that “the neighborhood is not cohesive and the large amount of non-historic infill dating from the second half of the twentieth century detracts from the historic character of the community. Furthermore, the urban renewal project from the 1960s through the 1980s resulted in the

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demolition of over 85 buildings and the construction of a large number of non-historic buildings, including several mid-rise apartment buildings and a townhouse development. Lakeland no longer retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.”

As such, the Restorative Justice Commission asks MNCPPC to reassess Lakeland for Historic Designation:

- Recognize the inadequacy of both the process used to create the current Historic Designation Survey of Lakeland and the outcome of that work.
- Reconsider the boundary of a prospective historic district given the significance of the structures and impact of governmental actions in consultation with the Lakeland community.
- Adopt more inclusive surveys, inventories, and designation practices, such as statements of significance that incorporate more social and cultural meanings of place, by bringing previously underrepresented stakeholders into the historic designation process.
- Carry out the process of creating the new Historic Designation Inventory in consultation with the Lakeland community.
- Utilize an organization for the new Historic Designation Inventory for Lakeland which is culturally appropriate for the task and approved by the Lakeland community.

We hold that empowering African American communities in the protection and interpretation of their heritage can offer an opportunity to acknowledge the harms of the past and forge a strong identity for Lakelanders. Rather than the denial of historic status because of the harm caused by urban renewal, the Commission and the community see this as one important way preservation can help promote a more just future for Lakeland.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fazlul Kabir  
Mayor